



CHURCH of IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD
CHURCH in SOCIETY COMMITTEE
Medical Ethics, Science and Technology Sub-Committee

During the year of 2004-05 the Sub-committee has completed and submitted its work on Stem Cell research. Progress has been made on a report on Drug research in the Third World and is now at the draft stage. Work is ongoing on the issue of the role of the church in Organ Transplantation. Should the church be taking a more active involvement or should it be an entirely passive observer in the provision of pastoral care at what is a very stressful and traumatic time for relatives?

We have maintained a watching brief on the presentation of a Private Members Bill at Westminster on Euthanasia/Physician Assisted suicide. At present this, if passed, will not apply to Northern Ireland, and we have not prepared a response, though are aware of that submitted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster. We also await either a Bill or a discussion document in the Republic of Ireland on the issue of In Vitro Fertilisation, and would expect to be responding to that, when it becomes public. Further forward planning concerns aspects of care for the Elderly in our communities.